

HOUSE RESOLUTION 59
By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend L.H. Burnett upon his reception of the National Association of Conservation District's 2005 Special Service Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, L.H. Burnett is one such estimable person who holds the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; he has recently been selected to receive the 2005 Special Service Award presented by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) at the 59th annual meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the NACD provides conservation services to land owners in soil, water, and other areas and was created during the dust bowl era of the 1930s when improper farming methods combined with an extended drought in the Midwest caused dust storms that reached as far east as Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was an avid supporter of conservation and was quoted as saying, "A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself"; this powerful leader was instrumental in getting legislation passed on a national level and in all the existing forty-eight states, which resulted in the creation of the NACD; and

WHEREAS, L.H. Burnett is another ambitious conservation enthusiast who resides in Pelham, Tennessee, on a farm that has been in his family for 150 years; he has been a loyal and active member of the NACD for forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his commendable tenure as an ardent protector of the environment, he has served with distinction as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the Grundy County Soil Conservation District for a meritorious twenty-three years; and

WHEREAS, among this remarkable man's many accomplishments is the formation of the National Coalition of Coal Mining States, which is an outgrowth of the NACD. Mr. Burnett served as the organization's President for two terms; during which time, he testified before the United States Congress on three occasions; and

WHEREAS, because of the extraordinary efforts of L.H. Burnett and the National Coalition of Coal Mining States, the Rural Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act was passed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett is an extremely motivated person who epitomizes the characteristics needed to win the NACD's Special Service Award: one who reaches out to his community with the necessary ideals required to promote the commendable cause of conservation, making the community a happier, healthier place for all who reside therein; and

WHEREAS, L.H. Burnett is wholly committed to the noble precept of contributing leadership through the development and implementation of ideas, and has confirmed repeatedly what it means to struggle through adverse conditions for the good of one's community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend L.H. Burnett for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, congratulate him upon his receipt of the 2005 Special Service Award given by the National Association of Conservation Districts, and salute his unswerving commitment to leadership and the advancement of his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.